

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a plurality of granules having diameters of not more than 1000 μm ,

wherein said granules comprise: each of which comprises

a nucleus granule containing comprised of beraprost sodium, and

a coating agent coating said nucleus granule, and

wherein said coating agent is comprised of: agent ~~constituting at least two skin layers including (1)~~

a first skin layer containing one or more a relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substances, and ~~(2)~~

a second skin layer containing one or more a hot-melt low-melting substances, ~~said nucleus granule being coated with said coating agent.~~

2. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said one or more relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substances isare ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting of water-insoluble alkyl cellulose ether derivatives, water-insoluble acrylic polymer derivatives and water-insoluble vinyl derivatives.

3. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 1 or 2, wherein said hot-melt low-melting substance has a softening point of not higher than 70°C.

4. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ wherein said one or more hot-melt low-melting substances isare ~~at least one~~ selected from the group

consisting of higher alcohols, higher fatty acids, higher fatty acid glycerin esters, waxes and saturated hydrocarbons.

5. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein thea~~ weight ratio of ~~(1) said first skin layer containing the relatively water insoluble macromolecular substance to (2) said second skin layer containing the hot melt low melting substance is within a ranges between~~from about 1:9 to about and 9:1, preferably between 3:7 to 7:3.

6. (currently amended) A process for producing an oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- a) applying a coating comprised of beraprost sodium to a granule,
- b) applying a coating comprised of one of a relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substance to said beraprost sodium coated granule, thereby providing a first skin layer,
- c) applying one of a hot-melt low-melting substance to said first skin layer, thereby providing a second skin layer,
- d) curing said coated granules to form films, and
- e) encapsulating said coated granules in a capsule.

~~a plurality of granules having diameters of not more than 1000 μ m, each of which comprises a nucleus granule containing beraprost sodium, and a coating agent constituting at least two skin layers including (1) a skin layer containing a relatively water insoluble macromolecular substance and (2) a skin layer containing a hot-melt low melting substance, said nucleus granule being coated with said coating agent.~~

7. (new) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein said weight ratio ranges from about 3:7 to about 7:3.